

Serial No.: 10/827,476
Inventor(s): Higgins et al.

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280
Case No.: 5615B

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Previously Presented) A surface covering element adapted for disposition in covering relation to a support surface wherein said surface covering element comprises:

a show surface adapted to project away from the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein the show surface comprises a surface selected from the group consisting of vinyl, ceramic, laminate, and wood; and

an underside adapted to project towards the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein a friction enhancing coating composition is disposed in coated relation across the underside at an effective level to enhance sliding friction of the surface covering element such that the surface covering element exhibits a degree of lateral grip across the support surface which is substantially greater than the lateral grip exhibited by a surface covering element of identical construction without the friction enhancing coating and wherein the friction enhancing coating composition does not permanently stick to the support surface and provides the surface covering element with an amount of vertical stick or adhesion to the support surface with little or no blocking.

2. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition is disposed across the underside of said surface covering element at a dry add-on level of not greater than about 50 grams per square meter.

3. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition is disposed across the underside of said surface covering element at a dry add-on level of not greater than about 30 grams per square meter.

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4. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition is disposed across the underside of said surface covering element at a dry add-on level of not greater than about 20 grams per square meter.

5. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition is a latex composition.

6. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 5, wherein the latex composition is an acrylic latex composition.

7. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 5, wherein the latex composition is an EVA latex composition.

8. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 5, wherein the latex composition is an SBR latex composition.

9. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition is a hot melt composition.

10. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 9, wherein the hot melt composition is an olefin composition.

11. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 10, wherein the olefin composition is based on one of polypropylene and polyethylene.

12-18: (Cancelled)

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19. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the surface covering element includes at least one layer of foam cushioning.
20. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the surface covering element is at least one of flooring, counter top, or wall covering.
21. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the surface covering element has a vertical adhesion of at least 0.01 lbs/inch².
22. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the surface covering element has a vertical adhesion of at least 0.02 lbs/inch².
23. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the surface covering element has a vertical adhesion of at least 0.03 lbs/inch².
24. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the surface covering element has a vertical adhesion of less than 0.04 lbs/inch².
- 25 - 26. (Cancelled)
27. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition is a cross linked urethane.
28. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 27, wherein the cross linked urethane is an ultra-violet cured urethane.
29. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 27, wherein the cross linked urethane is a heat cured urethane.
30. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating is an acrylate hot melt composition.

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31 – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The invention as recited in claim 25,~~ A surface covering element adapted for disposition in covering relation to a support surface of any of the group consisting of concrete, wood, glass, aluminum or steel, wherein said surface covering element comprises:

a show surface adapted to project away from the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface; and

an underside of PVC adapted to project towards the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein a friction enhancing coating composition is disposed in coated relation across the underside at an effective level to enhance sliding friction of the surface covering element such that the surface covering element exhibits a degree of lateral grip across the support surface which is substantially greater than the lateral grip exhibited by a surface covering element of identical construction without the friction enhancing coating and wherein the friction enhancing coating composition does not permanently stick to the support surface, and

wherein the show surface adapted to project away from the support surface comprises a vinyl surface.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The invention as recited in claim 25,~~ A surface covering element adapted for disposition in covering relation to a support surface of any of the group consisting of concrete, wood, glass, aluminum or steel, wherein said surface covering element comprises:

a show surface adapted to project away from the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface; and

an underside of PVC adapted to project towards the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein a friction enhancing coating composition is disposed in coated relation across the underside at an effective level to enhance sliding friction of the surface covering element such that the surface covering element exhibits a degree of lateral grip across the support surface

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which is substantially greater than the lateral grip exhibited by a surface covering element of identical construction without the friction enhancing coating and wherein the friction enhancing coating composition does not permanently stick to the support surface, and

wherein the show surface adapted to project away from the support surface comprises a ceramic surface.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~The invention as recited in claim 25,~~ A surface covering element adapted for disposition in covering relation to a support surface of any of the group consisting of concrete, wood, glass, aluminum or steel, wherein said surface covering element comprises:

a show surface adapted to project away from the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface; and

an underside of PVC adapted to project towards the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein a friction enhancing coating composition is disposed in coated relation across the underside at an effective level to enhance sliding friction of the surface covering element such that the surface covering element exhibits a degree of lateral grip across the support surface which is substantially greater than the lateral grip exhibited by a surface covering element of identical construction without the friction enhancing coating and wherein the friction enhancing coating composition does not permanently stick to the support surface, and

wherein the show surface adapted to project away from the support surface comprises a laminate surface.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The invention as recited in claim 25,~~ A surface covering element adapted for disposition in covering relation to a support surface of any of the group consisting of concrete, wood, glass, aluminum or steel, wherein said surface covering element comprises:

a show surface adapted to project away from the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface; and

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an underside of PVC adapted to project towards the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein a friction enhancing coating composition is disposed in coated relation across the underside at an effective level to enhance sliding friction of the surface covering element such that the surface covering element exhibits a degree of lateral grip across the support surface which is substantially greater than the lateral grip exhibited by a surface covering element of identical construction without the friction enhancing coating and wherein the friction enhancing coating composition does not permanently stick to the support surface, and

wherein the show surface adapted to project away from the support surface comprises a wood surface.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating composition comprises silicone rubber.

39. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the friction enhancing coating is coated in a discontinuous pattern across the underside.

40 – 41. (Cancelled)

42. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 1, wherein the underside comprises felt.

43. (Original) The invention as recited in claim 42, wherein the felt is a predrafted elliptically needled felt.

44 – 49. (Cancelled)

50. (Currently Amended) ~~The invention as recited in claim 37,~~ A surface

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covering element adapted for disposition in covering relation to a support floor of any of the group consisting of concrete, wood glass, aluminum and steel, wherein said surface covering element comprises:

a show surface adapted to project away from the support floor when the surface covering element is disposed across the support floor; and

an underside adapted to project towards the support surface when the surface covering element is disposed across the support surface, wherein a friction enhancing coating composition is disposed in coated relation across the underside at an effective level to enhance sliding friction of the surface covering element relative to the support floor such that the surface covering element exhibits a degree of lateral grip across the support floor which is substantially greater than the lateral grip exhibited by a surface covering element of identical construction without the friction enhancing coating and wherein the fiction enhancing coating composition does not permanently stick to the support surface and wherein the underside comprises a predrafted elliptically needled felt.

wherein the show surface comprises a surface selected from the group consisting of vinyl, ceramic, laminate, and wood.